

Curriculum Overview

The following information is a summary of the curriculum used at Byron Center Christian School. We strive to align with all Michigan Standards, but our goal is to also develop the social, emotional, and spiritual aspects of our students. Please understand this is an overview and not meant as an in-depth explanation. Also note that curriculum is important, but not as important as the teacher in your child's classroom. We are blessed with an exceptional teaching staff that is not only qualified and experienced, but also invested in the success of their students.

We also believe education is more than academics. Your child is a unique child of God and will learn in many ways - intellectually, socially, emotionally, and spiritually. It is difficult to describe and evaluate a child only academically. Your child is and will become so much more than grades or testing could ever show.

Math: Math Expressions (K-5), Transition Math (6, 7), Algebra (8)

- Math X incorporates a series of learning progressions to help students master math concepts, including building on current unit concepts as well as providing practice to keep learned concepts fresh.
- Middle school uses Transition Math in grades six and seven to build on concepts learned in K-5 and continues with algebra in eighth grade as they help prepare students for high school math classes.
- Collaboration and peer partner work are both important in math to build life skills through working together. Units also include practical life application of concepts through the use of various types of word problems.

Language Arts: The Fountas and Pinnell Continuum

- We take a balanced literacy approach with interactive read-aloud and literature discussions, writing about reading, writing, oral and visual communication, phonics, word study and guided reading.
- Reading and writing workshop is used across all grade levels.
- 6 + 1 Traits of writing (emphasis on ideas/content, organization, word choice, sentence fluency, voice, capitalization/punctuation, spelling and presentation) is used in kindergarten through 8th grade.
- Ongoing assessment through running records and the Fountas and Pinnell Assessment Kit is used to drive individual instruction through small groups.
- The Daily Five (Boushey and Moser) is used to foster literacy independence in the elementary grades.
- Reading Recovery is a powerful, intensive, intervention offered in first grade to individual, struggling learners through specially trained teachers.

(over)

Spelling (1st-6th): Sitton Spelling

- Combined focus on high frequency words and word skills to make learning applicable.
- Middle school incorporates spelling in both reading and writing curriculums.

Social Students: MAISA

- Michigan developed program that includes the four components of history, geography, civics, and economics.
- Progressive development of a student's awareness of the world around them beginning with self/family in kindergarten and broadening to the focus of world geography and events in middle school.

Science: Cereal City Science

Grades K-7 Cereal City Science through the Battle Creek Area Math and Science Center.

8th grade delves deeply into the human body and genetics along with some geology

- Cereal City Science is multi-unit and implements hands on and project-based learning.
- Students learn science when they actually do science.
- Cereal City Science continues to move towards the Next Generation Science Standards.
- Teachers regularly integrate a Christian perspective, recognizing the hand of God in creation, and also the fallen world and the need for restorative work in the natural arena.
- Studies involve the exploration of God's world with an understanding of not only how things work, but also our place in it.
- Topics meet the Science, Math and Engineering Standards through various avenues of Earth Science, Physical Science, and Life Science.

Bible: Christian Schools International - Walking with God and His People

- Bible is a subject, but it is important to note that God is not present just in Bible, but in everything we teach and in everything we do.
- Building a better understanding of God through his world, his Word, and his Son in order to develop the head, heart, and hands of students.
- Teachers walk with students to develop their relationship with Christ.
- Memorization of Bible passages is an important part of our Bible curriculum as we help students deepen their relationship with God and learn to apply God's Word to their lives.

Standardized Testing: NWEA MAP Testing

- This is a standardized testing tool to measure progress and foster greater learning. The testing is adaptive to each individual test-taker allowing assessment of the personal growth of each student.
- Nationally normed so we can ensure our students are learning at acceptable levels.
- Results for teaching staff and administration designed to foster instructional improvement.